

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending, with claims 8-19, 28, and 29 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 20 are currently amended. No claims are canceled or added.

Applicant infers from the PTO's notice of April 11, 2006 that the amendment filed December 27, 2005 will not be entered. Accordingly, applicant indicates the present claim amendments based on their original form instead of on their form of in the later-filed submission.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wical, U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 20, as now amended, both describe an associating information management system such that:

... degrees of relatives are displayed in a tree view in the order of relatives of closer degree, and an abbreviation symbol is added after the name of a member if a member with the same CIF is already displayed in the tree view.

Claims 2-7 and 21-27 depend from claims 1 and 20, respectively, so they also describe such associating information management system.

Applicant respectfully submits that Wical does not teach an associating information management system with the claim feature quoted above.

Applicant also appreciates the comments provided in a telephone discussion by the Examiner-of-record on April 6, 2006. In addition to discussing the reasons for holding the preceding amendment non-compliant (PTO communication of April 11, 2006), the Examiner noted that she did not find a teaching in the prior art *of record*¹ of the subject matter recited in

¹ Applicant acknowledges the PTO's practice of updating the search of prior art in response to amendments.

claim 18, section (3-4). As is apparent, the subject matter added to the claims via the present amendment includes the subject matter from claim 18 referenced by the Examiner.

In view of the present amendments and discussion, applicant submits that the anticipation rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-27 should be withdrawn.

With no issues remaining, applicant now requests a Notice of Allowability. If the Examiner believes issues remain, she is welcome to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the undersigned authorizes deducting any fees that may be due from Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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